



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: THE FIGHT TO KEEP CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE AND JUSTICE CHIN ON SUPREME COURT.

Editor's note: This is our first look since early March at the battle to retain CA Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George and Assoc. Justice Ming Chin. In early March **Calpeek** took note of the growing opposition to these two jurists at the Calif. Republican Party convention. Here is our update & analysis...

...George & Chin, both appointed to the court by Gov. Pete Wilson, are under attack because they voted to overturn a previous high court ruling which upheld Calif.'s *parental consent law*, requiring minors to get permission before having an abortion. Also on the ballot for reconfirmation are Assoc. Justices Janice Brown and Stanley Mosk, but they aren't in danger because they voted to uphold the parental consent law...

...George & Chin are running separately, not as a team. The lead consultant for George is McNally Temple & Assoc., while Chin has hired The PBN Co. and GOP strategist Ken Khachigian. Both committees are in the process of raising money and lining up support for what promises to be a bruising battle. George has got former Gov. George Deukmejian and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein as his co-chairs. DiFi is also backing Chin, as is S.F. Mayor Willie Brown and L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan. In terms of money, sources for George's campaign expect to show \$500,000 raised in the upcoming report. Chin should have \$300,000...

...The umbrella group leading the opposition against George & Chin is Citizens for Judicial Integrity. But they've been fairly quiet. The most vocal opposition to George/Chin is coming from 20 GOP anti-abortion members of the CA Legislature, led by State Sen. Ray Haynes of Riverside. Odd as it may sound, CA Republican Party Chair Michael Schroeder named Haynes to

head what's called a *Judicial Evaluation Cmt.* This committee is supposed to report in September on whether or not the CRP should take a pro or con stance on supporting George and Chin. Haynes has already made up his mind -- so why did Schroeder appoint him???

...FYI: the guy in the middle is Dan Lungren, who is officially neutral on the reconfirmation of George/Chin. But here's something to think about: if Lungren wins the governorship, and if George/Chin are defeated, Lungren (or Demo Gray Davis) would get to make two new appointments to the Supreme Court. And our sources believe Lungren wouldn't shed any tears if George/Chin were defeated - given his anti-abortion feelings. Stay tuned...

SOME MUCH NEEDED VACATION TIME FOR CALPEEK

No newsletter next week. We'll be taking off the week of June 29th (July 4th week). We'll be back at work on July 6th and your next **Calpeek** (issue #27) will be out the week of July 13th. Despite this short message, I'll get at least a half dozen calls from **Calpeek junkies** wanting to know why they didn't get their newsletter. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: LOCKYER AND STIRLING BATTLE TO BECOME CALIF.'S NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Editor's note: In the general election battle to succeed Dan Lungren(R) as CA's Attorney General, State Sen. Bill Lockyer(D) is going to have a tough fight against Chief Asst. AG Dave Stirling(R) in the fall. Here's our update & analysis...

...Don't bother to crunch the primary numbers in the AG's race. It'll only confuse you. For example: Lockyer spent about \$3.1 million and got 1.2 million votes vs. Stirling who spent \$1.2 million and got 1.5 million votes. That's the Stirling spin. Lockyer's spin is that

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the *combined* vote for the 3 Demo AG candidates was 2,469,000 vs. 2,270,000 for the 2 GOP candidates. A stand off in *spinning*...

...But **Calpeek** sources tend to think that Lockyer faces a tough fight. Here's why: 1) Ballot title - the reason Stirling crushed GOP rival Mike Capizzi and finished 1st in the primary was because of his **Deputy Attorney General** ballot title. Lockyer's lawmaker/attorney doesn't measure up; 2) Experience - Lockyer lacks prosecutorial/courtroom experience. And whether it is right or wrong, the *political perception* is that the AG is Calif.'s top cop & prosecutor; 3) Resources - Stirling isn't a great fundraiser, but sources believe he'll be *competitive* with Lockyer in the fall...

...But this isn't to say Stirling is a slam dunk, because he has some problems too: 1) Stirling's relationship (as well as Lungren's) with the county DAs is poor. That's why most of them backed Capizzi; 2) Stirling will be forced to defend the Lungren record and there are problem areas, such as guns & tobacco; and 3) Stirling received \$308,250 in Indian gaming money. That was about 25% of his total campaign war chest of \$1.2 million (raised since 1996). When Demo Tom Umberg got \$200,000 in tribal money in his unsuccessful AG's race in '94, Lungren made it a key campaign issue. Lockyer may do the same...

...Both Lockyer and Stirling made pitches to the county DAs who were gathered in Tahoe at a late June CDAA meeting. As for Capizzi, it's no secret he has **not** yet endorsed Stirling, although Stirling campaign sources say they will seek to mend fences and get the Orange Co. DA's blessing. Their primary was *very bitter* and because of the nasty way Capizzi was treated by the CA Republican Party(CRP), he owes nothing to either. Lockyer too would dearly also love Capizzi's endorsement and our sources think Capizzi will either stay neutral (most likely) or back Lockyer. As for Lockyer and his two primary rivals, he's talked to both Lynn Schenk and to fellow Sen. Charles Calderon, but there is nothing to report at this time. And there was some bitterness between Lockyer & Calderon, although not as much as between Stirling & Capizzi...

...**The Name Change:** We're not the first to note that Stirling changed his name in 1966 from Moses David Kahn to M. David Stirling. Other well known politi-

cians such as Bill Clinton, Gary Hart and Gerald Ford had different names at birth. But Stirling changed his name when he was an adult and after he moved to Calif. In the interest of full disclosure, especially for a man who seeks to become Calif.'s top law enforcement official, shouldn't Stirling give a full explanation, other than to say it's private? In other words, does Stirling's right to privacy outweigh the public's right to know? Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CITY & COUNTY BALLOT MEASURES.

Editor's note: Here's a first look at some city/county ballot measures that will face voters in November. It's still early for ballot letters or numbers to be assigned, but as soon as they are, we'll pass them along...

◆ **L.A. County** - One of the most controversial of all local initiatives is the one sponsored by L.A. Co. Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky, which would stop the Metropolitan Transp. Authority(MTA) from spending any more sales tax moneys on future subway construction, once the tunnel to North Hollywood is complete. The initiative has qualified. If approved, \$800 million in annual sales tax funds will be used for expanded bus service and light rail projects instead of the subway. The campaign goes under the name of *Citizens to Reform the MTA*. In addition to Yaroslavsky, others supporters include U.S. Reps. Howard Berman(D) & Buck McKeon(R), and L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs. There is no organized opposition at this time, but given the huge amount of money contractors get from this subway project, it's inconceivable that there won't be an opposition campaign of some kind...

● **Oakland** - Mayor-elect Jerry Brown has turned in petitions on an initiative to amend Oakland's city charter give the mayor more power - in effect making Oakland a mayor/council form of government, as opposed to the current city manager/council power-sharing arrangement. In addition to giving the mayor more power (makes the city mgr. responsible to the mayor), it would limit the chief executive to 2-terms in office; require voter approval on all salary hikes; and require an elected city attorney. 28,000 signatures were required; Brown's *Oaklanders' First* committee turned in 45,000+. Will it pass? Sources are somewhat divided. Oakland voters have rejected several "strong mayor" plans in the past, but Brown's popularity might make a difference. The Oakland Metro CofC and the business

community has not taken a position as yet...

◆ **S.F. County** - We won't know for some time about whether the voters will revisit the controversial S.F. 49er football/mall deal, but it's a pretty sure bet that voters will be asked to approve a continuation of the hotel tax --- with the revenue going to pay off bonds for the expansion of the Moscone Convention Center (which voters approved last year). Whitehurst Campaigns and Solem & Associates are handling this campaign, along with pollster David Binder...

◆ **Sonoma & Marin Counties** - Both counties will attempt to win voter approval of 1/2 cent sales tax hikes for transportation. Because of Prop. 218, the ballot measures will be worded for a general tax hike, which means only a 50% YES vote for approval. In both counties there will be a second advisory measure, asking voters how they want their tax dollars spent. Sacto-based Townsend Raimundo et al is the campaign consultant for both...

CAMPAIGN '98: OPPONENTS OF TRIBAL GAMING MEASURE LAUNCH DRIVE TO DERAIL INITIATIVE.

Editor's note: The *Coalition Against Unregulated Gambling* (CAUG) will soon launch their campaign to defeat the Indian Gaming Initiative on the Nov. 3rd ballot. Here is our update & analysis...

...This particular initiative promises to be one of the highest profile CA ballot measures of all time because the combined spending of both sides may exceed **\$75 million**. And that figure may be low !!! Just no telling yet. But one thing is certain: the NO side will soon be on tv with its first ads and is in the process of building a massive coalition to fight this proposal. The coalition includes business, labor, law & order organizations, Calif. horse racing and non-Indian Calif. card club interests, as well as some religious organizations. Newest member of the group: The Walt Disney Co. What's not out in the open are the Nevada hotel/casino interests who are major players on the NO side...

...In their first news conference, campaign officials from CAUG stressed 3 themes which we simply call **The 3 UNs**: UNlimited, UNtaxed & UNregulated. And while it's clear the opponents like to stress the unregulated aspects of this initiative (because this is the place where opponents think the initiative is most vulnerable), the

unlimited aspect hasn't been discussed all that much. Opponents say if this measure is approved there could be as many as **161** potential Indian-owned casinos in Calif. with slot machines & cards games. And there's no telling where an Indian casino may turn up --- even in downtown Sacramento...

...CAUG co-chair Kirk West, former top CA Chamber exec., said that most members of the coalition aren't opposed to Indian gaming *per se*, only this particular measure. Repeatedly, West and others hit the initiative as not providing the kind of regulation & oversight that is routinely given the casinos and their operators in Nevada. It's obvious where this line may lead: *crime*...

...FYI: On the legal front, opponents have asked an appeals court to throw the initiative off the ballot. The opponents say that in order to change the State Constitution, proponents should have circulated the measure as a constitutional amendment, not a statute. The appeals court decided **not** to hear the case on an expedited basis, so the opponents have gone to the CA Supreme Court for relief. No movement there either as **Calpeek** hit deadline. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is Part III of our post-primary update on U.S. House races in November. This week we'll look at the **42nd & 49th CDs** - which are both on **Calpeek's watch list**...

☒ **42nd CD** - Demo U.S. Rep. George Brown Jr. is seeking his 18th term in the House. This CD leans Demo in registration, with 51.40% Demo vs. 34.31% GOP. Given the power of incumbency in this election cycle, Brown should hold on for another term. He will face environmental attorney Elia Pirozzi(R), plus an AIP and Libertarian candidate. In the primary Pirozzi barely won the GOP nomination against perennial GOP candidate Rob Guzman. Pirozzi won by less than 300 votes yet he was the candidate with all the GOP support. In terms of Pirozzi's politics, he's a traditional conservative, but has lots of backing from hardliners. Can't really tell about his fundraising, because the FEC reports are only through 5/13/98. But at that time he had raised only \$129,766. Brown had raised \$240,589 and had a war chest of \$168,000 C-O-H. We'll assume that Pirozzi spent all his money in the primary and has to start from ground zero. Despite these drawbacks,

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the NRCC will once again target Brown. FYI: Brown got **53.6%** of the total primary vote. The combined GOP vote was about 7,000 less than Brown's total...

☒ **49th CD** - Two-term GOP U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray of Imperial Beach is a favorite to keep this seat in the GOP column through this election cycle. Nevertheless, it's on our *watch list* because popular San Diego Councilwoman Christine Kehoe(D) is making a serious run at Bilbray. She is the council's first openly lesbian member and won reelection in 1996 with 78.9%. Although she speaks out about gay/lesbian issues, she's really a *bread 'n butter* politician - better schools, safe streets, etc. And she's a very strong fundraiser: as of 5/13 she raised \$432,617 and had \$264,140 C-O-H. But in Bilbray she's facing a proven vote-getter. In 1996, he defeated Demo Peter Navarro by a 52% vs. 42% margin. The CD has a weak Demo registration base of only 39.49% vs. 37.80% GOP. In the '98 open primary, Bilbray got **53%** to Kehoe's **40%** and finished 13,300 votes ahead of the councilwoman. A rather disappointing showing for Kehoe. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's SUMMERTIME BEST SELLER READING LIST

Editor's note: for what it's worth, here's our list of recommended reading for the summertime. We've read about half of what's on this list...

☺ *Whittaker Chambers* by Sam Tanenhaus. After 520 pages you really know Alger Hiss wasn't just a *comsymp*, but a spy and Nixon was right. And the stuff about Chambers is fascinating. A good book...

☺ *A Good Life* by former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee. It fills in some areas that *A Personal History* by Katharine Graham leaves blank. Both are good summertime reading. Graham's book is just slightly better...

☺ *The Murrow Boys* by Stan Cloud & Lynne Olson has been around for a while, but it too is good summertime reading, especially if you like to hear those war stories about Severeid, Collinwood, Howard K. Smith and the rest of the CBS radio gang of WWII fame...

☺ *American Tabloid* by James Elroy (author of *L.A. Confidential*) is very high on our fiction list. It's all about JFK and a couple of shady FBI agents. Elroy's

ability to blend his characters with real people is what makes his books so enjoyable...

☺ *Call the Briefing* by former Reagan/Bush White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater comes highly recommended. It's been out for about a year...

☺ *Spin Cycle - Inside the Clinton Propaganda Machine* by Washington Post media critic Howard Kurtz is on everyone's reading list. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

- A very sad note: S.F. Chronicle political reporter Susan Yoachum passed away June 22nd after a 7-year battle with breast cancer. She was 43. She was a 1975 graduate of SMU (yes, she was a Texan) and moved to the Bay area in 1978, where she first worked for the San Jose Mercury News. She jumped to the SF Chron in 1990. Mercury News political editor Phil Trounstine called her a real life *Murphy Brown*. She'll be missed by her colleagues and her many friends. R.I.P...

- Assemblyman Nao Takasugi(R-Oxnard) is in a Sacto hospital recuperating from a heart attack he suffered while doing his a.m. exercise walk...

- New address for John Regan of Smart Campaigns: 240 Commerical St., Ste. D, Nevada City, CA 95959. ☎(530)265-5255...

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